

# NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RANDY G. MASSEY  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

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*Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700*

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*For Immediate Release*

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2006**

## **BELLEVILLE AUTO PARTS COMPANY SENTENCED FOR OBSTRUCTION OF A FEDERAL AUDIT**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 1, 2006, **UNITED AUTO PARTS, INC.**, an Illinois corporation with its principal place of business in Belleville, Illinois, was sentenced for the offense of Obstruction Of A Federal Audit. **UNITED AUTO PARTS, INC.** was sentenced to five (5) years probation, was ordered to pay a fine of \$46,255, and a special assessment of \$400. Restitution had been collected by the United States Air Force prior to sentencing. Robert Lelly, the President of **UNITED AUTO PARTS, INC.**, has agreed to personally guarantee the payment of the fine. As part of the sentencing, **UNITED AUTO PARTS, INC.**, will be required to pay \$1,000 per month towards the fine imposed, pay the monthly costs of supervision, which is currently \$292.21 per month, and pay interest that will accrue on the unpaid balance. **UNITED AUTO PARTS, INC.** was ordered to publicize in the local newspapers the nature of it's offense, the fact of conviction, the punishment imposed, and the steps the corporation will take to prevent a reoccurrence of the criminal conduct.

The prosecution is the result of United Auto Parts endeavor to obstruct an audit that was being conducted by the United States Air Force to determine whether United Auto Parts was complying with a contract to provide auto parts to Scott Air Force Base. On January 25, 2005, United Auto Parts, Inc. obtained a contract with the United States Department of Air Force, 375<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, for an air force base auto parts store. Under the terms of the contract United Auto Parts received a certain amount of money to staff the base auto parts store, for overhead, and then was paid or reimbursed for parts ordered, and only for the amount of money that United Auto Parts actually paid for the parts. Robert A. Lelly was and is the President and authorized representative of United Auto Parts, Inc., a closely held family corporation that operates out of a business address in Belleville, Illinois. Robert Lelly was requested to provide receipts during the audit to determine the costs paid by United Auto

Parts. During the audit, Robert A. Lelly, on behalf of United Auto Parts, Inc. provided false receipts to the United States Air Force auditor in an attempt to deceive the auditor. The total cost of the contract exceeded \$100,000 for each year the contract was in existence.

The successful prosecution was the result of an investigation conducted by the United States Air Force, Office of Special Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.